

Appl. No.: 09/896,853

Response dated January 26, 2004

Reply to Office action of November 28, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

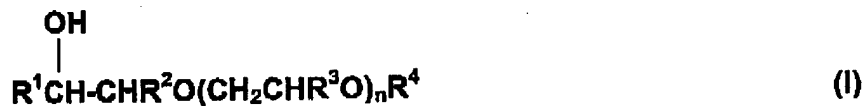
**In the Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A process for enhancing cleaning performance of an aqueous laundry detergent composition comprising adding a hydroxy mixed ether to the composition.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether corresponds to formula

(I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and n is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is at least 6.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the

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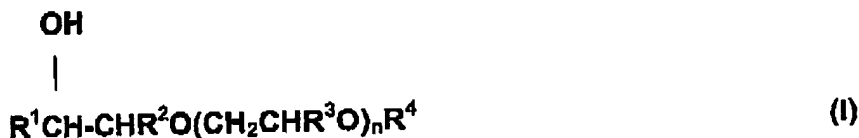
weight of the composition.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The process of claim 17 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The process of claim 17 wherein the composition further comprises a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The process of claim 21 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A process for cleaning textiles comprising contacting the textiles with an aqueous laundry detergent containing a hydroxy mixed ether corresponding to formula (I):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group containing from about 2 to 18 carbon atoms, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or methyl, R<sup>4</sup> is a linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl group

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containing from 1 to about 22 carbon atoms and  $n$  is a number from 1 to about 50, and wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is at least 6.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 60% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 25 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the hydroxy mixed ether is present in the composition in an amount of from about 10 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

Claim 26 (new): The process of claim 23 wherein the composition further comprises a co-surfactant component selected from the group consisting of an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, a cationic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, a zwitterionic surfactant, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 27 (new): The process of claim 26 wherein the co-surfactant component is present in the composition in an amount of from about 1 to 40% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

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